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Hampshire
Department of
Education**

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Messages From the Department of Education

November 2011

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AMERICAN REINVESTMENT AND RECOVERY ACT (ARRA)

A. Waiver for the Extension of the Use of FY 2009 Funding

The New Hampshire Department of Education is planning to apply for a specific waiver recently offered by the US Department of Education (US ED). As part of the waiver request process, we requested comments from sub-recipients (district, program or agency). All comments will be included in our submission to the US Department of Education.

The waiver offered by the US ED would allow the NH Department of Education to extend the time period for obligating Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 (original funding from the 2009-10 school year with carryover into 2010-11) funds for certain Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) grants. Any remaining funds in these accounts would normally lapse as of this past September 30, 2011. However, with the new waiver option being offered, New Hampshire would be able to reallocate these funds and continue to use them until September 30, 2012. This would include the use of both remaining regular FY 2009 funds, as well as the ARRA funding.

Contact: Stephanie Lafreniere, (603) 271-6052, Stephanie.Lafreniere@doe.nh.gov

ACCOUNTABILITY, ASSESSMENT, CURRICULUM, AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

A. National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Results

The release of Grades 4 and 8 Mathematics and Reading results for the 2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), often referred to as “the Nation’s Report Card,” given to New Hampshire students last school year confirms the academic achievement of NH students. For both assessments in both grades, the percentage of NH students demonstrating Proficiency on the NAEP assessment increased compared to the previous assessment given in 2009. Along with Massachusetts, New Hampshire grade 4 students, on average, continue to have the highest performance compared to grade 4 students in all other states and jurisdictions throughout the nation on the NAEP Mathematics assessment. For Reading, New Hampshire grade 4 students retained their standing as one of the top-six highest performing states in the nation. Of the six, only Massachusetts had higher achievement that was statistically significant compared to New Hampshire. For grade 8, New Hampshire students were among the top-ten highest performing states in the Nation on both the Mathematics and Reading assessments. Only two states - Massachusetts and Minnesota, had higher achievement that was statistically significant compared to New Hampshire on the grade 8 Mathematics assessment. For Reading, only three states - Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Jersey, had higher achievement that was statistically significant compared to New Hampshire’s grade 8 students. For more information go to www.education.nh.gov/instruction/assessment/naep/index.htm.

Contact: Tim Eccleston, (603) 271-2298, Timothy.Eccleston@doe.nh.gov

B. New Hampshire's Accountability System

In June 2009, the NH State Legislature passed Senate Bill 180, now RSA 193-E that “establishes an accountability system to ensure schools are providing the opportunity for an

adequate education.” NH convened a group of school and district administrators, special educators, assessment directors, university professors, assessment consultants, and members of the Department to review and make recommendations to New Hampshire's Accountability System. The NH Department of Education and the NH Legislature are working to develop an accountability system in order to determine if students are being provided the opportunity for an adequate education. A draft of the NH Accountability System is expected to be available by January 2012.

Contact: Joe Miller, (603) 271-3594, Joseph.Miller@doe.nh.gov

C. No Child Left Behind Waiver

Last month the Obama administration released guidelines for states interested in securing waivers from certain provisions of the federal No Child Left Behind law. The NH Department of Education did submit a letter of intent to save a place with respect to the strong possibility that the department will request flexibility from NCLB on behalf of the state, and NH schools and districts, in order to better focus on improving student learning. The Department is working with educational leaders from across the state, representing teachers, principals, superintendents, school board members and special educators to determine if a waiver request can be constructed that will serve NH's students. We will also be hosting stakeholder meetings across the state. For more information go to www.ed.gov/esea/flexibility.

Contact: Paul Leather, 271-3801; Paul.L Leather@doe.nh.us

D. New Hampshire Alternate Learning Progressions (NH-ALPs) Assessment

The NH Alt update for 2011-2012 has been distributed. This memo includes information about the NH-ALPs; NH ALPs Advisory Task Force Note; A Brief Summary of Updates to the Assessment for the 2011-12 School Year; Key Dates & Timelines, 2011-12 School Year; and the NH ALPs Training Calendar For 2011-12. This memo can be found at www.education.nh.gov/instruction/accountability/notices.htm.

Contact: Gaye Fedorchak, (603) 271-7383, Gaye.Fedorchak@doe.nh.gov

DATA

A. 2011-2012 Fall i4see Activity

October 17 – was the deadline for 2011-2012 Final BOY submissions. BOY files include all students who have been in your schools this school year through October 3. These files should be certified by the Superintendent as soon as possible so that High Schools can begin Real Time Entry and Withdrawal.

Course and Class Submission were also due from all school districts. If you need help with these submissions please e-mail i4see.help@doe.nh.gov.

November 8 - is the due date for F&R Submissions (Free and Reduced Eligible) – Include in this submission all students whose applications have been received and processed by October 30.

Contact: Sandy Hyslop, (603) 271-2831, Sandy.Hyslop@doe.nh.gov

B. 2010-2011 EOY Completion

If your district has not already done so, please print out the final end of year reports due to the Department. They are the “ADM Report” and the “EOY Determination Sign Off” report. These two reports can be found under the i4see work bench, Analysis tab, Anomaly and State Reports, EOY Enrollment screen.

Contact: Sandy Hyslop, (603) 271-2831, Sandy.Hyslop@doe.nh.gov

FUNDING

A. Federal Ed Jobs Supplemental Award

An e-mail was sent November 1, 2011 to superintendents, charter directors, and business officials explaining that Ed Jobs supplemental awards will be part of the November Adequacy Aid grant payments and Charter Tuition Aid payments. This should be recorded as federal revenue.

Contact: Sallie Fellows, (603) 271-0073, Sallie.Fellows@doe.nh.gov

B. School Facilities

Please submit Form A24F and any other missing documentation as soon as construction projects are complete. We cannot make the final payment on any project with missing documentation.

Contact: Marjorie Schoonmaker, (603) 271-3620, Marjorie.Schoonmaker@doe.nh.gov

GRANTS and REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

ALL RFPs Can be Found on the Department Web site at
www.education.nh.gov/rfp/index.htm

A. Educational Surrogate Parent Program: Regional Master Surrogate Parents

The Bureau of Special Education is seeking proposals for up to three (3) Regional Master Educational Surrogate Parents who will be responsible for providing management, phone support, and e-mail support for educational surrogate parents in regionally assigned areas: North Country, Southwest, and Southeast. Deadline for Receipt of Proposals: Friday, November 18, 2011.

Contact: Barbara Raymond, (603) 271-279, Barbara.Raymond@doe.nh.gov

B. State Institutions Career and Technical Education Projects

The NH Dept. of Education seeks a vendor to create, expand, or improve career and technical education, and other occupational skill development programs, for either of two populations: 1) incarcerated juveniles and/or adult offenders or 2) individuals with disabilities. Up to \$54,682.00 is available for one-year projects. Project funds are 100% federal under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006. Deadline is December 9, 2011.

Contact: Stephen Bos, Ph.D. (603) 271-3729, Steve.Bos@doe.nh.gov

HEARINGS

A. Early Childhood, Theatre, Classical Languages, and Music Teachers and Teacher Preparation Programs

A public hearing will be held December 14, 2011 in the State Board Room at the NH Department of Education, at 11:00 a.m. Deadline for submission of written comments is December 23, 2011.

Contact: Mary Mayo, (603) 271-3189, Mary.Mayo@doe.nh.gov

B. Ed 315, Home Education

A public hearing will be held December 14, 2011 in the State Board Room at the NH Department of Education at 11:30 a.m. Deadline for submission of written comments is December 23, 2011.

Contact: Mary Mayo, (603) 271-3189, Mary.Mayo@doe.nh.gov

INNOVATIONS/INITIATIVES

A. Real World Design Challenge (RWDC)

On October 11th Dr. Ralph K. Coppola, Director of the Real World Design Challenge (RWDC), announced the FY12 RWDC State Challenge. RWDC is an annual aviation design competition for teams of three to seven high school students. This free national challenge for students and teachers offers teacher training and online resources. This year, RWDC is also offering two online graduate level courses in Modern Product Development Engineering for High School Teachers. In addition, each teacher that enrolls a team will receive \$1 million in professional engineering software, as well as access to mentors from industry, government, and academia. The Real World Design Challenge creates many opportunities for students. Following the state-level judging in February, every state champion team receives an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. in the spring. Last year's national champions presented their work to President Obama at the White House. In addition, previous RWDC students have earned paid internships as a result of their participation. For more information go to www.education.nh.gov/spotlight/rwdc.htm. Deadline to register is November 18, 2011.

NEXT GENERATION LEARNING (NXGL)

A. Learning Studios

Since last summer, the Department has been working on advancing innovative approaches to K-12 learning known as "Next Generation Learning," or NxGL. On Thursday, October 27, 2011 districts, Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs), and others who have indicated interest in the NH Partnership for Next Generation Learning came together to learn more about Learning Studios and the emerging NH Network. Workshops engaged teams in what a Learning Studio might look like in a given school and community. Learning Studios create a scenario where a series of learning challenges are offered, for students, teachers, and community members. Within a Learning Studio, teams of students and adults work together to address the learning challenges. Learning Studios are seen as an excellent entry point to begin the transition to a more personalized, student-centered learning environment, as we have been discussing within the Partnership for Next Generation Learning. For more

information about the Partnership for Next Generation Learning go to www.education.nh.gov/innovations/nxgl/index.htm.

Contact: Paul Leather, (603) 271-3801, Paul.L Leather@doe.nh.gov

SCHOOL APPROVAL STANDARDS

This section applies to both public and non-public schools

- a. The Public School Approval Checklist for FY 12 is included in the Inputs Based Accountability System (IBAS). Schools whose approval expires July 1, 2012 are required to complete the school approval tab in the IBAS as well as the other tabs. Principals should complete and submit all required tabs by December 16, 2011. Superintendents should approve the reports in the system by January 13, 2012.
- b. School approval packets for private schools whose approval expires June 30, 2012 were mailed in October and are due back by February 1, 2012.
- c. There will be a one-day conference at Rivier College on December 5, 2011 on the topic of hosting international students. There will be a fee to attend this event. More information will be provided by separate correspondence.

Contact: Leslie Higgins, (603) 271-3759, Leslie.Higgins@doe.nh.gov
Marie Morgan, (603) 271-4125, Marie.Morgan@doe.nh.gov

SPECIAL EDUCATION

A. Catastrophic Aid (CAT AID) and Chapter 402 (Court-Ordered Placement) Training

The last scheduled training for CAT AID and Chapter 402 trainings will be Friday, November 18, 2011 from 9:00 a.m.-noon. This training will provide guidance in processing Chapter 402 and guidance for eligibility for CAT AID, application for CAT AID, allowable costs and timelines for CAT AID.

Contact: Lisa Morrisette, (603) 271-3738, Lisa.Morrisette@doe.nh.gov

B. Educational Surrogate Parent Program

A volunteer program designed to provide a child with a disability with an educational surrogate parent to act as the child's educational decision-maker. As the educational decision-maker you would participate in a child's special education team meetings. Represent children whose parents are unavailable or unable to participate in the special education process; are not responsible for any financial costs or direct care of the child. Must be at least 21 years of age and complete an application that includes a background check. The NH DOE requires applicants to participate in a nine-hour training, which is offered at no cost to applicants. The training includes information on the special education process and related topics. (Professional Development credits are available for this training)

Training Schedule

Saturday, November 12, 2011, Pease Public Library, Plymouth, NH (9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
Saturday, December 3, 2011, Derry Public Library, Derry, NH (9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)
Saturday, January 21, 2012, Keene Public Library, Keene, NH (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)

Saturday, March 3, 2012, Conway Public Library, Conway, NH (10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)

Saturday, May 19, 2012, Rye Public Library, Rye, NH (9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.)

Saturday, July 21, 2012, Oscar Foss Memorial Library, Barnstead, NH (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)

Contact: McKenzie Harrington, (603) 271-3739, McKenzie.Harrington@doe.nh.gov

C. New Hampshire Special Education Information System (NHSEIS) Weekly Forum

The New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE), Bureau of Special Education will continue to hold weekly forums via conference call on the New Hampshire Special Education Information System (NHSEIS).

Conference line number: 1-800-240-3895 / Conference ID: 600113

<i>Forum Date</i>	<i>Time</i>
Monday, November 14, 2011	1:00pm-2:00pm
Monday, November 28, 2011	2:00pm-3:00pm
Tuesday, December 6, 2011	3:00pm-4:00pm
Wednesday, December 14, 2011	10:00am-11:00am
Thursday, December 22, 2011	11:00am-12:00pm
Tuesday, January 3, 2012	1:00pm-2:00pm

Contact: Terry Hersh: (603) 271-3775, Terry.Hersh@ed.state.nh.us

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A. AIMing for Achievement in New Hampshire

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 requires state and local education agencies to ensure timely provision of textbooks and related instructional materials in specialized formats to students with print-related disabilities who need them. New Hampshire is working in collaboration with the National Center on Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) at the Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST) to develop, implement and monitor a system that assists educators and families. At the Christa McAuliffe Technology Conference on November 29th, Joy Zabala, AIM Center Director of Technical Assistance and Mary Lane from the NHDOE will share AIM basics, decision-making tools for schools and families, and an overview of how AIM is gearing up in New Hampshire. Come find out what this important mandate means to educators and families, how AIM relates to improved student participation and outcomes and how AIM and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) work together to support achievement for all NH students.

Contact: Mary Lane: (603) 271-3740, Mary.Lane@doe.nh.gov

B. Bullying Awareness and Prevention is available online from OPEN NH

In an effort to assist schools in providing training for all school-related employees, volunteers, substitute teachers and others, the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Program and the NH e-Learning for Educators Project, both programs of the New Hampshire Department of Education, have developed a 3-hour self-paced online tutorial on bullying awareness and prevention. This tutorial costs \$10.00 and covers basic issues surrounding bullying, the impact of cyberbullying, and the requirements of the New Hampshire Pupil

Safety and Violence Prevention Act. Participants will earn a Certificate of Completion for 3 hours of professional development that will satisfy the required basic training in bullying awareness and prevention. For more information and online registration, visit www.regonline.com/bullyingtutorial. Districts may register cohorts of teachers in the tutorial at reduced cohort registration rates. For more information, visit www.opennh.org or contact the OPEN NH Project Coordinator. A complete 7-week course is also available through OPEN NH, and will be offered in future OPEN NH course sessions, or by special district cohort request.

Contact: Stan Freeda, (603) 271-5132, Stanley.Freeda@doe.nh.gov

C. New Hampshire Teachers of Mathematics (NHTM) 2012 Annual Spring Conference

NHTM is seeking presentation proposals for the 2012 NHTM Annual Conference that will take place in Plymouth, NH, at Plymouth State University on March 23, 2012. The theme for the conference is “Connecting with the Common Core and More!” NHTM is hoping for presentations that emphasize the mathematical process standards presented in the Common Core, as well as connections to habits of mind, quantitative literacy, and NCTM process standards. There are two formats for presentations: sessions (1 hour) and workshops (1.5 hours). Proposal forms and directions are available at:

https://docs.google.com/a/profile.k12.nh.us/spreadsheet/viewform?hl=en_US&formkey=dGplMXEyRUtpVzNyeDVvdGJBVEhOTGc6MQ#gid=0. The deadline for speaker proposals is December 2, 2011. They can be submitted online, by email, mail or by fax. Proposals can be mailed to 42 Brickyard Road, Goshen, NH 03752 or faxed to (603) 863-1889. Individuals will be notified about proposal decisions no later than January 15, 2012.

Contacts: Christine Downing, (603) 582-7340, Christine.Downing@yahoo.com or
Kim Knighton, (603) 991-9170, kknig@profile.k12.nh.us

D. OPEN NH Online Professional Development Courses

OPEN NH (New Hampshire e-Learning for Educators) offers a variety of group discounts for SAUs, districts, or schools. Deals include 25 seats in our 7 week 35 hour online professional development courses for \$2,625 or 4 seats for 2 teachers for \$440. The **OPEN NH Winter 2012 Session** will begin on **February 8th** and run through **March 27th**. Districts can also request the special delivery of any of our courses over a 7-8 week time frame of their choice. To request a special delivery course, a designated team leader should complete a Special Course Delivery Registration form, available online, and send it to the OPEN NH Project Coordinator for processing, or contact the coordinator. Teaching Enhancement courses for online course facilitation and online course development are available through the program. Visit the Web site for details. Graduate credits are available through Plymouth State University at additional cost. Complete list of courses running in the OPEN NH 2012 Sessions, as well as descriptions of all courses in the OPENNH catalogue can be found on the Web site at www.opennh.org. OPEN NH is part of the NH e-Learning for Educators Project, a program of the New Hampshire Department of Education.

Contact: Stan Freeda, (603) 271-5132, Stanley.Freeda@doe.nh.gov

E. The Student-Centered High School Conference

Please join us for The Student-Centered High School Conference on December 15th from 8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. at SERESC Educational Conference Center, Bedford, NH. The Department of Education, the Center for Secondary School Redesign and QED Foundation will partner with a number of New Hampshire and New England secondary schools to present innovative designs and practices that enhance engagement, personalization, and the student-centered high school. Presentations and workshops include Inquiry-Based Learning, Performance Assessment, Next Generation Learning, Extended Learning Opportunities, Student Voice, Choice, and Agency, Engaging Your Community for Change, and others.

There will be a special Principal's Retreat and Reflection conducted by Bill Bryan, VP of Leadership and Organization Development of The Center for Secondary School Redesign. This all-day workshop is designed to give Principals a break from the daily responsibilities to others to reflect on their own practice, goals, and intentions. Space for this Principal's workshop is limited to 20 registrants who must commit to the full day. This workshop is for High School level (including Middle/High School) Principals only.

Please check the SERESC Web site [Events Page](http://reg.abcsignup.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0003-0006-6D59BD83B68745ACA4F94B252129657E) (http://reg.abcsignup.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0003-0006-6D59BD83B68745ACA4F94B252129657E) for more information or to register.

Contact: Mariane Gfroerer, (603) 271-6691, Mariane.Gfroerer@doe.nh.gov

F. Substitute Teaching: Tools and Tips for Success

In an effort to assist schools in preparing potential substitute teachers for teaching in NH schools, the NH e-Learning for Educators, a program of the New Hampshire Department of Education, is offering a short online tutorial through OPEN NH. This five-hour self-paced tutorial costs \$25.00 and provides basic knowledge and skills necessary for being an effective substitute teacher. Proper preparation before substituting in a school or district will greatly increase the confidence and comfort level of substitute teachers working with students in the classroom. The tutorial provides a brief overlook of the situation in education today and prepares potential substitutes with an understanding of how teachers and students interact in our changing educational landscape. Basic skills and techniques for teaching lessons to students along with some strategies for managing behavioral issues are explored. Finally, the tutorial covers a basic understanding of the kinds of policies and procedures that schools must operate under, including the NH pupil safety policy involving bullying. For more information and online registration, visit <https://www.regonline.com/substitutetutorial>. Districts may register cohorts of teachers in the tutorial at reduced cohort registration rates. For more information, visit www.opennh.org or contact the OPEN NH Project Coordinator. In the future, NH e-Learning for Educators plans to offer a complete 7-week course for substitute teaching which will be offered in future OPEN NH course sessions, or by special district cohort request.

Contact: Stan Freeda, (603) 271-5132, Stanley.Freeda@doe.nh.gov

G. Thinkfinity

The Department of Education, through NH e-Learning for Educators, is a partner with the online teacher resource center from the Verizon Foundation, Thinkfinity. This partnership will

enable OPEN NH to provide professional development to teachers in your schools or districts in the use of the Thinkfinity online resource center and online professional learning communities. If you are interested in receiving professional development in how to best use the resources available through Thinkfinity visit our Thinkfinity resource page online at www.nheon.org/thinkfinity. To schedule a time and date for face to face professional development sessions at your school, district, or SAU contact the OPEN NH Project Coordinator.

Contact: Stan Freeda, (603) 271-5132, Stanley.Freeda@doe.nh.gov

H. Transition Summit V: Youth-Driven Transition

On November 16th, the New Hampshire Transition Community of Practice will hold its fifth Transition Summit, for training, collaboration, networking, and information focused on post-secondary outcomes for students. The Summit is seeking high school students/young adults to be part of the training. Students who are interested in leadership development or who have experienced special education, special health care issues or behavioral challenges are encouraged to attend. Students need to be a part of the change that improves services to prepare for life after high school. This conference offers three breakout sessions specifically designed for students/young adults. To register or for more information go to www.iod.unh.edu/Services/professional-development.aspx.

Contact: Amy Jenks, (603) 271-3842, Amy.Jenks@doe.nh.gov

DEPARTMENT STAFF UPDATES

The Bureau of Special Education is pleased to announce that **Kim Stiles** has been hired as the **New Hampshire Accessible Instructional Materials (NHAIM) Coordinator**, and has been appointed the New Hampshire Ex Officio Trustee of the American Printing House for the Blind. Kim's responsibilities are to manage accessible textbooks and core related materials; to procure American Printing House for the Blind (APH) quota materials; to provide technical assistance to districts and families, and to administer the Act to Promote the Education of the Blind. You may contact Kim at: (603) 271-0818 or Kim.Stiles@doe.nh.gov.

RESOURCES

A. InVEST

InVEST works with educators by providing curriculum to teach insurance and business skills to high school and college students around the nation. They will provide all the needed resources to implement insurance instruction in the classroom for absolutely no cost. InVEST is offering a webinar on November 10, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. to become familiar with insurance literacy resources that are available. Register at www1.gotomeeting.com/register/933022609. For more information about InVEST go to www.investprogram.org.

OTHER

Monarchs School Day

The Manchester Monarchs will be hosting the second Monarchs School Day on Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at 11:00 a.m. at the Verizon Wireless Arena. This event will be a fun,

educational experience for your students and will utilize the exciting game of hockey as a tool to teach science, health, mathematics, New Hampshire's history and more. During the event there will be interactive, educational stations on the arena's concourse, in-game announcements pertaining to various topics, and a workbook for students to do throughout the game. The event is aimed at 4th – 8th grade students, giving them an opportunity to learn in a new and exciting environment. New this year for High School students we will have a pregame speaker from the Monarchs to discuss how we market the Monarchs. This program will be geared more towards marketing students. Invitation letters were sent to principals in September. For more information about this event please contact Bob McCaffrey of the Manchester Monarchs at (603) 626-7825 ext. 6113.

Enterteenment Is Seeking a Teen Columnist

Enterteenment is seeking a teen columnist to write for their magazine and Web site, which will re-launch January of 2012. The teens selected should have a real affinity for the subject they apply to cover for Enterteenment. The teens selected will be compensated with cash credit for each web article, which will be due every two weeks and each magazine article which will be due 4 times per year. The cash credit they accumulate during their tenure with Enterteenment can amount to as much as \$5,000 per year and will be issued to them in full upon proof of their high school graduation. In addition to the cash scholarship, as official enterteenment columnists they will receive the opportunity to attend premier events and test a variety of products related to the industry they are covering. Enterteenment Is recruiting nationwide and looks forward to receiving your applications and writing samples. Deadline to apply is November 25th. Go to www.enterteenmentonline.com and click on "Write for Us."

National Peace Essay Contest for High School Students

Each year, the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) – an independent, nonpartisan institution established and funded by Congress to increase the nation's capacity to manage international conflict without violence – holds a National Peace Essay Contest (NPEC) on a different topic related to international conflict management and peacebuilding. The essay contest promotes discussions among students, teachers, parents, and youth leaders on important international topics. It also improves and strengthens students' critical thinking, research, and writing skills.

Students will answer the question, "How can new media best be leveraged to help build peace and prevent conflict?" First place state-level winners will receive \$1,000 scholarship and go on to compete for national awards. They are also invited to a week-long education program in Washington, D.C. in June 2011. The U.S. Institute of Peace covers expenses related to the program, including travel, lodging, and meals. The deadline for the 2011-2012 contest is February 1, 2012. Entries must be received by this date. More detailed information on eligibility, registration, and requirements can be found on the USIP's Web site (www.usip.org/npec).

In addition, high school teachers, especially who are passionate about these issues and dedicated to challenging students to think globally, can make the essay contest a part of their curriculum. A study guide on the essay contest topic is available online.

Grants Available for NH Literacy Projects

The Center for the Book at the New Hampshire State Library is pleased to announce that the Granite State Reads program, which offers financial support to N.H. organizations that provide literacy assistance to N.H. residents, is currently accepting applications for the 2012 grant cycle. An organization with a project that improves the literacy skills of New Hampshire children or adults is eligible to apply for a Granite State Reads grant of \$500 or more. The deadline to apply is December 1, 2011. Grant recipients will be notified of funding decisions by February 6, 2012. Those interested in applying for a Granite State Reads grant should visit <http://granitestatereads.org> for details on how to apply. You can contact Granite State Reads at gslr@dcr.nh.gov.

Grants Writing Workshop for Arts in Education and Artist in Residence Projects

NH State Council on the Arts will offer a free Grants Workshop designed for teachers, administrators, parents and non-profits offering arts education programs. The workshop will focus on project design and grants writing skills that support the arts and other curriculum for the Artist Residency in Schools, Youth Arts Project (out-of-school programs) and General Project Grants. Deadlines for these grants are in March and April 2012 for academic FY2013 school year. A wide range of resources will be shared and participants will leave with materials and information needed to write a successful grant. Workshop takes place on Tuesday, November 15, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the NH State Council on the Arts' new location at 19 Pillsbury St, Concord, NH. Participation will be limited to 15. To register, contact Catherine O'Brian, Arts in Education Coordinator, NH State Council on the Arts, catherine.r.obrian@dcr.nh.gov, (603) 271-0795. To learn more about the State Arts Council's grants, visit: www.nh.gov/nharts.

White Mountain Winter Adventure Camps

The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension (UNHCE) 4-H Youth Development program is preparing for its 2012 White Mountain Winter Adventure Camps for teens (ages 14 to 18) living in military families. Activities will include Nordic skiing, alpine skiing, dog sledding, ice skating, sled hockey, tubing, and snowshoeing. The camps are designed for military youth with and without disabilities, giving everyone a chance to join in the fun! Lessons and equipment will be available, and included in the cost of this adventure. To register or for more information go to www.nhomk.com.